

Teamwork and partnership

An update on activities from our Publishing Partners



Crown Agents had a strong presence at the Forum for Investment Promotion in Côte d'Ivoire, in Abidjan

at the end of January. Our presence there highlighted the work we are focusing on Francophone Africa and on public-private partnerships (PPP). Our lead on PPP, Maurice Diamond, was a participant on the forum's health panel discussion, where he was able to debate and demonstrate the role of PPPs in the development of the country's health systems.

The value of our network of offices throughout Africa has proved its value over the last few months. Our team in Uganda playing a vital role in ensuring the continuity of the work of the South Sudan Pooled Fund, amid the unrest that erupted in South Sudan in September. After having to leave Juba in December, the project team – led by Dr Kwalombota Kwalombota – quickly set up operations in Kampala, where they have been able to continue with the project work while closely monitoring the changing situation in South Sudan.



The importance of diagnostic tools

Healthcare... a word that has a different meaning depending on who is de-

scribing it. Whereas healthcare in a developed country means access to doctors and diagnostics any time of the day for whatever cause, in a less developed country or area it can be non-existing due to no access to staff to meet the potential patient, no access to tools to detect a cause for an illness or access to medication. At HemoCue we are driven to be part in changing this inequity and to provide access to easy to use diagnostic tools. Tools that can be used at high-end facilities – but also in the most remote area where nothing else may be at hand, without sacrificing quality or accuracy. Instructions are provided as illustrations taking away any language barrier.

A low haemoglobin level in a child can be dangerous in the short term, but it also has long-term consequences in that child's learning abilities. Is it an infection or malaria? Although cheap treatment for malaria is available it may not be the correct treatment, the symptoms may be caused by an infection of another cause. A system able to count the total white blood cells right there and then, and also make a differential, can make a difference, both short and long term.

These two complicated tests, haemoglobin and white blood cells, have been designed to be easy to perform, anywhere for anyone, also without laboratory education. Our systems are being used in primary care, in hospital settings, in emergency care, and in mobile screening units. They have been to the moon, the Arctics, the jungle, in deserts, at high altitude, and in humid environments. Our 4 test/second are used

in more than 130 countries, everywhere from remote disaster areas in developing a countries to the most advanced hospital operating rooms.

We are a trusted reliable partner with proven point-of-care solutions for many years, and for many years to come. At HemoCue we are here for you – wherever you are.



Controlling malaria in Nigeria

University of Liverpool Master of Public Health (MPH) graduate Dr Ibrahim Sebutu Bello is playing a leading role in malaria control initiatives in Nigeria – backed by knowledge and skills gained on the University's online programme.

'The MPH programme gave me the understanding and confidence to fulfil my dream – to go beyond just prescribing drugs to malaria patients and to initiate programmes to eradicate the disease,' said Dr Bello, who works in the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex in Ife, Nigeria.

Armed with extra knowledge on how to design public health interventions – gained in his first months on the fully online MPH – Dr Bello went into action. Among the initiatives he's led from 2011–2014 are: malaria data analysis workshops for family medicine doctors across Nigeria; malaria vaccine advocacy in Ife Ife and Osun states; health education on malaria preventive strategies on local radio and TV; distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, testing, and other measures in partnership with drug companies, state government, and the WHO; Presentation of his research findings on rapid diagnostic testing to the 6th Pan African Malaria conference in South Africa.

Dr Bello now leads a group of researchers applying for a Malaria Eradication Scientific Alliance (MESA) grant for a comprehensive malaria eradication programme in Ife/Ijesa Zone, Nigeria.

'Malaria is the predominant disease in primary healthcare settings in Nigeria. We need to invest in prevention rather than sinking all resources in purchasing drugs and fluids,' he said.

In an exclusive webinar on April 7, World Health Day, Dr Bello will share examples of research and community work that is helping to combat vector-borne diseases around the world. The webinar is hosted by the University of Liverpool and other institutions in the Laureate International Universities (LIU) network. For more details and to register for this FREE online event visit <http://www.university-liverpool-online.com/events>.